

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 11:10 AM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; Joy Hampton; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily; OU Nightly
Subject: A Children's Garden

City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Carol Coles
City Of Norman
366-5404
carol.coles@normanok.gov

On Saturday, April 13th, 2013, the City of Norman Children's Rights Commission in conjunction with area child abuse prevention and treatment agencies will host "A Children's Garden: Raising Awareness for Child Abuse Prevention." The event, held this year at Andrews Park during Child Abuse Prevention Month, seeks to draw attention to the issue of child abuse and celebrate childhood through art and music.

Participants will decorate garden plots using symbols for abuse awareness, such as pinwheels, blue ribbons, and other items associated with childhood; agencies will also be on hand to provide information to adults about child abuse prevention and treatment. Sponsor agencies are City of Norman Children's Rights Commission, Bethesda, Inc., the Exchange Club of Norman, the Center for Children and Families, and the Mary Abbott Children's House.

In addition to viewing the garden installations, children and adults will be invited to visit the art station to create a pinwheel or blue ribbon of their own to be placed in the Growing Garden, a community garden plot. Snacks will be sponsored by the City of Norman, and musical groups will be providing children's music throughout the event.

Heidi Smith, event chair and commissioner on the Children's Rights Commission stated, "Each year, those of us directly connected to child abuse prevention look for ways to combine our efforts for even greater awareness. The Children's Garden offers the opportunity to raise awareness about child abuse while celebrating the joys of a happy, healthy childhood. We expect this event to grow each year and look forward to sharing our work with the community."

A Children's Garden: Raising Awareness for Child Abuse Prevention is a one-day event on April 13th, 2013, that will be held from noon to 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Carol Coles with the City of Norman via email at Carol.Coles@normanok.gov or event chair Heidi Smith at (405) 579-5800 or via email at hsmith@abbott-house.org.